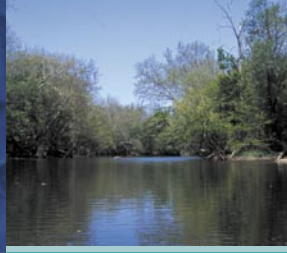
Stream Line

City of Indianapolis / Department of Public Works / Clean Stream Program

Winter 2005 | Issue 5



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Statement Of Purpose

The Indianapolis Clean Stream Team is overseeing many projects to keep raw sewage out of our waterways and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Stream Line is published quarterly to keep you informed about the city's progress in reducing raw sewage overflows and restoring the health of our streams.

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INDIANAPOLIS
CLEAN STREAM TEAM

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CITIZENS WEIGH IN ON SEWAGE CONTROL OPTIONS

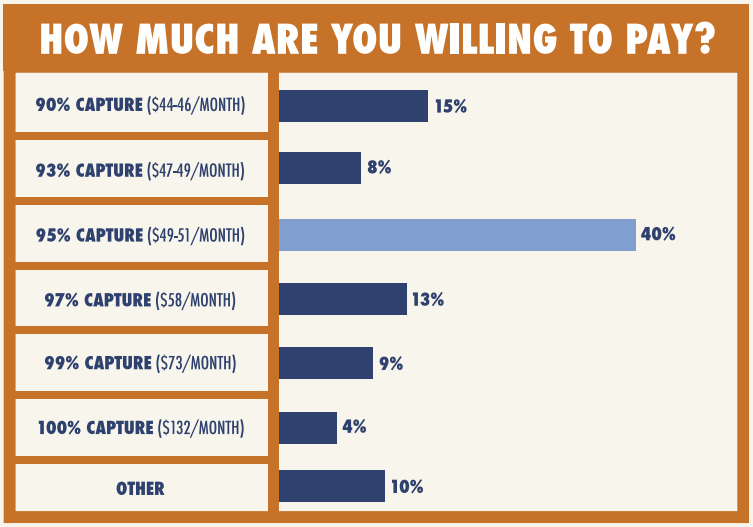
Most popular choice is mid-range option of 95 percent capture

During a series of public meetings in October, the Department of Public Works sought public input on the city's options for reducing raw sewage overflows. The city received 153 responses through public meetings, mail and its Web site.

"We want to thank the citizens for their input, as well as their time and effort, in helping us develop the most effective long-term control plan for reducing raw sewage overflows in our city," said DPW Director Jim Garrard. Partial results are summarized below. For more detailed information and full survey results, visit our Web site at www.indycleanstreams.org.

Cost and Level of Control

The city estimated the impact of overflow control projects on residential sewer rates and asked residents how much they would be willing to pay at the end of 20 years for cleaner waterways. The top vote-getter, with 40 percent of all votes, was 95 percent systemwide capture (costing the average homeowner $49-51 per month at the end of 20 years). Other results are shown below.



Monthly sewer rates are the average homeowner's estimated rate at the end of 20 years. They include today's rate plus the amount needed to fund sewage overflow reduction projects. Other rate increases will likely be needed for other sewage collection and treatment needs.

Priority Areas

In implementing the plan, the city could spend more resources and place higher standards on some streams than others. When asked about this, the largest number of residents (38 percent) wanted to treat all streams the same. Twenty-seven percent wanted to give smaller streams a higher priority than White River and 22 percent would give some streams higher controls if it is cost-effective to do so.

Preferred Plan

Participants were asked to indicate which systemwide plan they prefer. Fifty-nine percent of participants preferred Plan 1 (Storage/Conveyance), 26 percent chose Plan 2 (Storage/Conveyance with Remote Treatment Facilities), and 15 percent chose Plan 3 (Total Sewer Separation).

Negotiations are continuing with state and federal agencies to finalize a plan.

Happy New Year to all! In this issue of Stream Line, we are highlighting recent city activities to reduce sewage overflows and improve water quality.

These include:

• Public input on our alternatives for reducing sewer overflows. Since October, city staff and the Clean Stream Team have been talking to groups all over town about our options and getting input on some important policy questions. The results will guide our long-term plan.

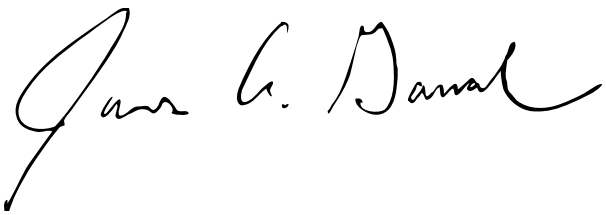
• The opening of the 3-million-gallon East Bank Storage Tank, which is reducing millions of gallons of sewage overflows from one of the worst overflow locations along the White River.

• The 2005 debut of our "Correct Connect" program which will educate, encourage and require property owners to disconnect incorrect or illegal sump pump and downspout connections to our sewers.

• A campaign to raise $103,000 from the community to endow an environmental scholarship for a deserving Indianapolis Public School student who participates in Purdue University's Science Bound program.

Our most important goal this year, however, is completing our long-term control plan for improving water quality and gaining federal and state approval of the plan. Watch our Web site at www.indycleanstreams.org for updates on our progress, a draft plan and opportunities for further public comment.

Thank you for your interest in our waterways!



BRIEFS

USGS Releases Biological Study

The U.S. Geological Survey recently released a biological assessment of White River and other streams in the Indianapolis area. Funded by DPW's Office of Environmental Services, the study provides an assessment of stream health in the White River and select tributaries from 1999-2001. The report describes the abundance and diversity of fish and their food sources at 12 sampling locations. Results are compared to previous studies conducted intermittently from 1981 to 1996.

The study found 74 species and 3 hybrids of fish in the White River and its tributaries in the study area. Carps and minnows were the largest group of fish identified, consisting of more than half of all fish collected. The most numerous species was the central stoneroller, which accounted for almost 25 percent of the fish identified.

Results of the study were affected by the December 1999 discharge of toxic chemicals into the White River at Anderson, Indiana. The discharge killed an estimated 117 tons of fish from Anderson to south of Indianapolis. Biologists began restocking various reaches of the river from April 2000 to November 2001. The direct and indirect effect of the toxic discharge on bottom-dwelling larva, snails and other fish food sources was not clear, USGS reported.

The report is available on the USGS Web site at http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/wri/wri034331.

Company Supports Teacher Training

ADS Environmental Services sponsored a recent Team WET Schools curriculum training hosted by John Marshall Middle School. WET stands for Water Education for Teachers, a water-related curriculum correlated to Indiana state standards. ADS supported the purchase of 10 urban water test kits for participating schools. These kits allow teachers and students to assess the conditions of their drinking water or a local creek. ADS also provided lunch for the participating teachers and trainers. The Clean Stream Team thanks ADS for its support of our educational programs.

New Underground Tank Reduces Overflows to White River

Raw sewage overflows into the White River near downtown reduced dramatically with the October opening of the East Bank Storage Tank.

The 3-million-gallon, underground tank lies adjacent the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis and along White River State Park. From July to December 2001, 29 overflows were reported at this location. With the tank in place, just five would have occurred during that period.

"From the day he took office, Mayor Peterson has made it a priority to solve this problem," Deputy Mayor Carolyn Coleman said at the October 12 ribbon-cutting ceremony. "This project is a prime example of what we are doing to reduce overflows and become a world-class city."

The $5.8 million project is included in the city's long-term plan to reduce sewage overflows and restore Indianapolis streams. The tank captures and stores a combination of raw sewage and stormwater that would otherwise overflow into the river during rainfall or snowmelt.

Donohue & Associates Vice President Stephen Brinegar (left), Deputy Mayor Carolyn Coleman, DPW Director James Garrard and Donohue & Associates Vice President Jim Miller celebrated the opening of the East Bank Storage Tank. Donohue & Associates were the project designers.

The East Bank Storage Tank holds wastewater until flows in the sewer system subside; then the sewage is pumped back into the existing sewer for transport to the Belmont Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant. Flushing gates clean out the storage tank after each use.

The underground tank blends into the stream bank and is not noticeable to people enjoying White River State Park. The project was designed by Donohue & Associates, Inc. and inspected by Malcolm-Pirnie, Inc. The construction was managed by Thieneman Construction, Inc.

SCIENCE Bound

Science Bound students Emma Carmichael (left) and Tasha Ricks teamed on a robotics project at the Women in Engineering Summer camp.

Scholarship Campaign Launched

The Indianapolis Clean Stream Team has launched a fund-raising campaign to endow an environmental scholarship at Purdue University for a deserving Indianapolis Public Schools student.

The scholarship will be granted through the Purdue-IPS Science Bound program, which makes higher education a reality for low-income students who might not otherwise go to college.

Science Bound was the brainchild of Purdue President Martin Jischke and Purdue alum Bob Bowen of Bowen Engineering.

Students who complete the Science Bound requirements will receive a full-tuition scholarship to study a science-related field at Purdue. Program requirements include maintaining a required GPA, participating in after-school programming, and attending summer programs and weekend trips to Purdue.

Today, there are more than 150 students between 8th and 10th grade in Science Bound.

"When today's 10th graders graduate, one of them will be rewarded with a Clean Stream Team scholarship to attend Purdue," said DPW director Jim Garrard. "We are excited about the opportunity to draw new talent into the environmental science and engineering field."

The Clean Stream Team plans to raise $103,000 during the next three years to establish an endowment. Various levels of tax-deductible giving are available. If you are interested in making a donation, contact Jodi Perras at 327-8720 for more information.

DO YOU HAVE A CORRECT CONNECT?

The Department of Public Works is launching a new "Correct Connect" program to support its goal of reducing sewage overflows into our rivers and streams.

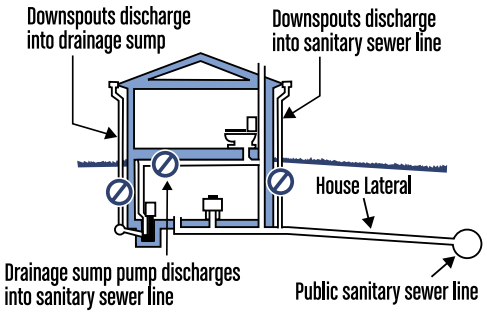
Many homes in Marion County have sump pumps or downspouts illegally or incorrectly connected to the sewer system. If your downspout or sump pump is directly connected to the sewer, it is taking up space needed to carry sewage to our treatment plants.

"The goal of Correct Connect is to reduce rainwater flowing into our sewers," said DPW Director Jim Garrard. "This 'clear water' can contribute to sewage overflows into our streams and – even worse – sewage backups into people's basements."

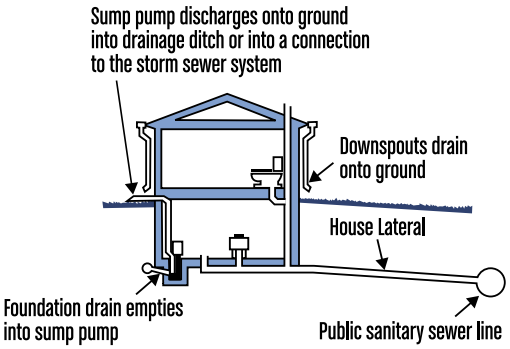
"In a neighborhood of 200 homes it only takes six to eight sump pumps working full time in wet weather to cause a backup in a sanitary sewer – causing problems for an entire neighborhood," said Carlton Ray, DPW's administrator for environmental engineering.

The Correct Connect program will educate residents on how to identify and correct any illegal or incorrect sewer connections. The program will include an instructional video, how-to materials, and assistance from city staff and partner organizations.

For more information on Correct Connect, visit our Web site at www.indycleanstreams.org or call the Mayor's Action Center at 327-4622.



IMPROPER INSTALLATION



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